

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A surface-treated ultrafine metal powder, wherein a sulfur-containing compound including at least one element selected from the group consisting of Y, Zr, and La is present on a surface of a particle of the ultrafine metal powder, and wherein said sulfur-containing compound is present in an amount such that the at least one element contained in said sulfur-containing compound is present in a total amount of 0.05% to 6% by mass and S contained in the sulfur-containing compound is present in an amount of 0.04% to 4% by mass, each relative to the mass of the ultrafine metal powder as a whole.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The surface-treated ultrafine metal powder of claim 1, wherein a metal element of said ultrafine metal powder is one selected from the group consisting of Ni, Cu, Ag, Mo, W, Co, and Ta.
4. (Original) The surface-treated ultrafine metal powder of claim 1, wherein said ultrafine metal powder is a powder of an alloy of Ni containing one or not less than two elements selected from the group consisting of V, Cr, Nb, Mo, Ta, W, Zr, Y, La, Mg, Ti, Ba, and Ca.
5. (Original) The surface-treated ultrafine metal powder of claim 1, wherein said ultrafine metal powder is a powder of an alloy of Cu containing one or not less than two elements selected from the group consisting of V, Cr, Nb, Mo, Ta, W, Zr, Y, La, Mg, Ti, Ba, and Ca.

6. (Withdrawn) A method for producing ~~a~~the surface-treated ultrafine metal powder according to claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:

adding an aqueous solution containing a sulfate of ~~not less than~~at least one element selected from the group consisting of Y, Zr, and La to a slurry having the ultrafine metal powder dispersed therein; and

performing a surface treatment for forming a sulfur-containing compound ~~of not less than~~including at least one element selected from the group consisting of Y, Zr, and La on a surface of said ultrafine metal ~~powder. powder, wherein said sulfur-containing compound is present in an amount such that the at least one element contained in said sulfur-containing compound is present in a total amount of 0.05% to 6% by mass and S contained in the sulfur-containing compound is present in an amount of 0.04% to 4% by mass, each relative to the mass of the ultrafine metal powder as a whole.~~

7. (Original) A conductive metal paste produced by using the surface-treated ultrafine metal powder as recited in claim 1.

8. (Original) A multilayer ceramic capacitor produced by using the surface-treated ultrafine metal powder as an internal electrode as recited in claim 1.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A conductive metal paste produced by using the surface-treated ultrafine metal powder as recited in claim 3.

11. (Original) A conductive metal paste produced by using the surface-treated ultrafine metal powder as recited in claim 4.

12. (Original) A conductive metal paste produced by using the surface-treated ultrafine metal powder as recited in claim 5.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) A multilayer ceramic capacitor produced by using the surface-

treated ultrafine metal powder as an internal electrode as recited in claim 3.

15. (Original) A multilayer ceramic capacitor produced by using the surface-treated ultrafine metal powder as an internal electrode as recited in claim 4.

16. (Original) A multilayer ceramic capacitor produced by using the surface-treated ultrafine metal powder as an internal electrode as recited in claim 5.